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Making sense of the world



THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS

READY, SET, SOLVE!

Discover how the twisting, turning Rubik's Cube became
the world's most popular puzzle **p12**





This week's big news



The 15 top winners of the Gloria Barron Prize

Who is T.A. Barron?



The Barron Prize founder, T.A. Barron, has written more than 30 best-selling books for children and young adults and received the de Grummond Medallion for his contribution to young people's literature. Barron, who lives in Colorado, has also received awards for his efforts to protect nature and the environment.

"Young Hero" prize winners named

On September 19, 15 young people from the US were named top winners of the 2023 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes. The award recognizes children and teens who have made a significant positive impact on their community or the environment. The winners were chosen from among 25 finalists.

What happened?

The 15 winners range in age from 13 to 18. Each will receive \$10,000, which they can use to further their service project or to help pay for college. The 10 remaining finalists, ages 10 to 18, were named honorees and received recognition for their exceptional efforts.

What is the prize?

The prize was created by children's book author T.A. Barron in honor of his mother, Gloria Barron, a teacher who died at age 92. She also volunteered at the Colorado School for the Blind, where she spent 20 years creating a nature museum in which all the exhibits can be touched. In honor of what T.A. called his mother's "quiet heroism," the award recognizes a diverse group of "public-spirited" young people from North America who "best

demonstrate heroic character qualities like courage, compassion, and perseverance." Since the Barron Prize was created in 2001, a total of 575 young people from Canada and all 50 US states and the District of Columbia have been awarded more than \$500,000 in prize money.

Who are some of this year's winners?

The 15 prize winners were honored for a wide range of projects. Matias Habib (shown above, middle row, far right), age 18 of Illinois, developed an environmentally friendly pesticide to combat the Japanese beetle, an invasive species that attacks crops in the US. Grace Sun (top row, second from left), age 17 of California, founded Melodies for Remedies, a nonprofit that provides music therapy to senior citizens and people with Alzheimer's disease. Rory Hu (middle row, center), age 13 of California, researched ways to prevent Colony Collapse Disorder, a problem facing beekeepers and bees. Jonah Larson (bottom row, center), age 15 of Wisconsin, has raised \$75,000 through his nonprofit, Jonah's Hands, which buys books and supplies for children in the Ethiopian village where he was born.

WOW!
Past winners of the Gloria Barron Prize have collectively raised more than \$28 million for the causes their winning projects focused on.

Who are some of the finalists?

The finalists included Paisley Elliott, age 10 of Texas. She founded Paisley's Pals, an organization that has raised thousands of dollars to support refugee children around the world. Sawyer Anderson, age 13 of North Dakota, created Water Works, a nonprofit that delivers clean water to people in Zambia, Africa. Maanit Goel, age 17 of Washington, founded the Washington Youth Ocean & River Conservation Alliance. The organization helps protect Pacific Northwest orca and salmon. Jason Starr, age 17 of New York, launched Tutor Partnerships, which provides free local tutoring to students in 29 schools across several states.

What will happen next?

In addition to the cash prize, top winners will receive a plaque and certificate, a signed copy of T.A. Barron's book *The Hero's Trail*, and a copy of *Dream Big*, a documentary film about past Barron Prize recipients. They will also connect with other winners, many of whom have gone on to successful careers related to their service efforts. Over the years, the winners of the prize "have inspired countless people by their example," prize officials said.



Art stolen by Nazis is returned

Seven works of art by Austrian painter Egon Schiele were returned to the family of Fritz Grünbaum, an art collector who died during the Holocaust. The Holocaust was the mass killing of 6 million Jewish people and millions of others by the German Nazi party in the 1930s and 1940s. The art was returned on September 20 by private collectors and well-known US museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, after 25 years of legal battles by Grünbaum's family.

Grünbaum lived in Austria and owned a collection of more than 400 works of art, including 81 by Schiele. It is believed that the Nazis stole the collection after Grünbaum was sent to a concentration camp (place where Nazis imprisoned and killed people) in 1938. The value of each painting is between \$780,000 and \$2.75 million.

Timothy Reif was one of four Grünbaum family members who attended the ceremony in New York where the paintings were handed over. "I love these works because recovering them allows me to honor the memory of this man," he said.



Details of returned Schiele paintings



A scene from the strike

DID YOU KNOW?
In the US, 599 original scripted shows aired on TV and streaming services in 2022—a record.

Striking writers reach deal

Leaders of the Writers Guild of America (WGA) reached a tentative agreement with Hollywood studios and streaming services on September 24. The deal is expected to end a strike (refusal to work as a form of protest) that lasted for 146 days, one of the longest in Hollywood history.

The WGA is a labor union with more than 11,500 members who write for movies and TV shows. They walked off their jobs in May after nearly 98% of members voted to strike. They were demanding higher pay and other changes from the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), which represents the studios.

The proposed contract would be in effect for three years. Under its terms, studios will have to hire a minimum number of writers for shows.

Writers will receive higher payments for material on streaming services. The contract also addresses the use of artificial intelligence, which writers were concerned would take work from them.

"We can say, with great pride, that this deal is exceptional—with meaningful gains and protections for writers," WGA leaders said in a statement. When *The Week Junior* went to press, they were expected to approve the contract. It would then go to WGA members for a vote. If they approve it, writers will return to work and some productions, such as talk shows, will resume.

Many productions will remain on hold, however, due to a different strike. The union representing Hollywood actors, SAG-AFTRA, went on strike on July 14. Talks are set to continue soon.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A RARE CATCH

A seafood company in France caught a blue lobster that is so rare there's a one in 2 million chance of finding one. It was released into a no-fishing zone, where the company said "it can live a long, peaceful, and happy life."



The lobster



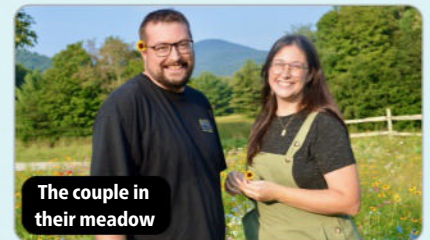
The Wienermobile

EMBRACING A CLASSIC

In May, hot dog maker Oscar Mayer changed the name of its famous Wienermobile to the Frankmobile—the first name change since its creation in 1936. People complained, and the company changed it back. "Everybody loves the Wienermobile," a spokesperson said.

SPREADING JOY

Natalie Gilliard and Jonathan Yacko were tired of mowing their land in Vermont, so they planted wildflowers instead. Now their colorful meadow is a local attraction that adds beauty to the landscape, provides a habitat for bees, and brings the community together. "It's been wonderful on so many levels," Yacko said.



The couple in their meadow



National news



The honorary chair



Actor LeVar Burton is the honorary chair of Banned Books Week. A longtime reading advocate, Burton (pictured above) hosted PBS's *Reading Rainbow* series and produced *The Right to Read*, a documentary about US literacy challenges. "Books bring us together," he said. "They teach us about the world and each other."

Banned Books Week is observed

From October 1 to 7, the US will observe Banned Books Week, an annual event sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA). The observance comes as a new report released by PEN America, a group focused on free expression, showed that attempted book bans in the US increased by 33% during the previous school year.

What is Banned Books Week?

The week was created in 1982. Its goals are to promote the right to choose what to read and to bring authors, teachers, librarians, and readers together to support the freedom to express ideas. In particular, the event highlights the benefits of allowing children to have access to a wide variety of information that can help them form their own opinions. This year's theme is "Let Freedom Read!"

Why are books banned?

When people object to a book being available for others to read, they can try to get it removed from their community's schools and libraries. This year, the ALA reported nearly 700 attempts to ban more than 1,900 titles, the highest number since the ALA began tracking the data more than 20 years ago. Most of the challenged books were written by or about people of color or LGBTQ people, the ALA said. Books with language and political views that some say are offensive were also challenged.

What happened this year?

School libraries received the most challenges, the ALA said, but public libraries received more challenges this year than they usually do. Nearly half of the book challenges tracked by the ALA

between January and August took place in public libraries, up from 16% during the same period the year before. The ALA said this is a concern because many books challenged at public libraries have already been removed from school libraries, which reduces the availability of books in a community.

What is the ALA doing?

The ALA released a list of the top 10 books that were challenged in schools and libraries in 2022. Libraries, bookstores, and schools are being asked to share the list and encourage people to read what they want. The ALA said it will continue to advocate against book bans. Libraries should aim to welcome every reader in their community and "provide something in the collection for everyone," said Emily Drabinski, the ALA president.



WORD OF THE WEEK

SCIENCE

At the heart of the word "science" is the idea of knowledge and learning. It comes from the Latin *scire* (to know). When it moved into English in the 14th century, its meaning was expanded to include the sharing of learning. The modern meaning of "science," which focuses on the physical and natural world, dates to the 18th century.

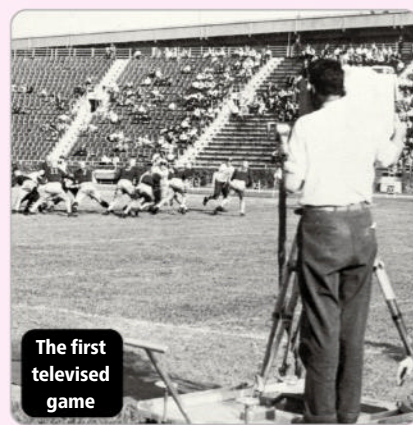


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

September 30, 1939

First televised US football game

On September 30, 1939, a football game between Fordham University and Waynesburg University, played in New York City, was the first to be broadcast on TV. NBC sent a crew to air the game, which Fordham won, 34–7. Only about 500 people watched the broadcast, though, since TV was a new technology at the time. Today, football games attract more viewers than any other TV show.



The first televised game



A view of the mounds

Heritage site selected in Ohio

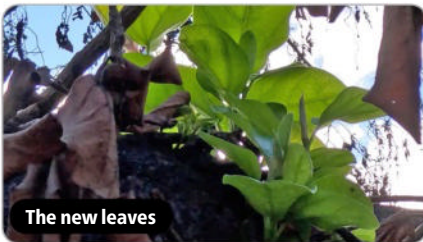
Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, a network of Native American ceremonial and burial mounds spread across 90 miles in Ohio, has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the first site in Ohio and the 25th in the US to receive the recognition. Earthworks was selected for its contribution to understanding ancient people. Built more than 1,600 years ago, the mounds were used for elaborate ceremonies to celebrate the universe.



Chuck Schumer

Dress code in Senate changes

A dress code requiring suits and ties for men and pantsuits or dresses for women will no longer be enforced on the floor of the US Senate. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York, made the change and said senators can choose what they want to wear. While some lawmakers welcomed the decision, others said dressing in casual clothing on the Senate floor is disrespectful.



The new leaves

Hawaii tree continues recovery

A 150-year-old banyan tree in Maui, Hawaii, which was damaged in August during one of the worst wildfires in US history, has sprouted new leaves. Standing 60 feet tall, the tree has been cared for by volunteers who have added nutrients to its soil and watered it with up to 10,000 gallons of water a day. The tree has been called "a beacon of hope" for people trying to rebuild after the fires.



Mei Xiang at the National Zoo

PANDA NUMBERS
Approximately 1,864 giant pandas live in the wild, and about 600 more live in captivity.

Celebrating pandas before they depart

The Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, DC, is celebrating its three giant pandas before they leave for China in December. Known as Panda Palooza, the series of events from September 23 through October 1 honors 26-year-old Tian Tian, 25-year-old Mei Xiang, and their cub, 3-year-old Xiao Qi Ji.

Giant pandas first arrived at the National Zoo in 1972 as part of an arrangement between the US and China. Mei Xiang and Tian Tian arrived in 2000 under an agreement that they would eventually return to China. The three pandas will travel to China aboard a specially arranged plane, with National Zoo staff members accompanying them.

The pandas will live at the China Wildlife Conservation Association, where many giant pandas already live. Once there, Mei Xiang and Tian Tian will enjoy "retirement," a zoo official told *NBC Washington*. Xiao Qi Ji will be given a chance to find a mate and produce

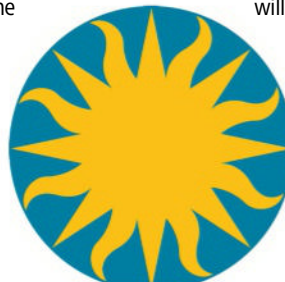
offspring in an effort to increase the number of giant pandas in the world.

Three cubs born to Mei Xiang and Tian Tian have already been returned to China, and two of them, Tai Shan and Bao Bao, have had cubs of their own. It is not clear whether the National Zoo will receive more pandas.

The Panda Palooza celebrations at the zoo will include free screenings of the film *Kung Fu Panda* and stations where children can make panda-inspired art. People who have visited the pandas at the zoo can share their memories and the photos they took at nationalzoo.si.edu/panda-memories.

"Caring for one animal and its future is the beginning of caring more deeply for the natural world and our place in it," said

Brandie Smith, an official with the National Zoo. "Although this farewell is bittersweet, we must celebrate these bears and their impact on fans and on our understanding, care, and conservation of their species."



The Smithsonian Institution's logo

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Cyclist faces down herd of oncoming cows" *UPI*





Around the world



A Pi-Pop bike



Orléans, France

Electric bike goes battery free

A French company has designed the first battery-free electric bike. Other e-bikes have electric motors powered by batteries. The batteries are usually made with lithium, a material that is taken from the ground and can damage the environment. The French invention, called the Pi-Pop, has a supercapacitor instead. This device charges when riders pedal on flat surfaces, go down hills, or brake.



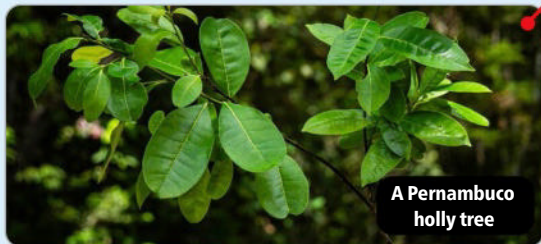
A protest against the ambassador



Niger

French ambassador and troops to leave

President Emmanuel Macron said France will withdraw its ambassador immediately and pull 1,500 troops from Niger, a former French colony, by the end of 2023. (An ambassador represents their country's government in another country.) The move comes after a military group overthrew Niger's democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, and thousands of people protested to demand France's departure.



A Pernambuco holly tree



Brazil

Long-lost tree species rediscovered

A holly tree species that hadn't been seen for nearly 200 years has been rediscovered. The Pernambuco holly tree, which can grow nearly 40 feet tall, was found by researchers in northeast Brazil. The holly is one of the top 25 "most wanted" lost species of plants and animals targeted by the Search for Lost Species project, which aims to find thousands of lost species worldwide.



United Kingdom

Delilah the gorilla turns 60

Delilah, the oldest gorilla in human care in the UK, has turned 60. A resident of Belfast Zoo, Delilah arrived there in 1992 and is now a "grandparent figure" in her gorilla troop. She is a western lowland gorilla, a highly endangered species from West Africa. Delilah celebrated her birthday by opening a birthday box filled with vegetables.



Delilah



The United Nations

World leaders meet

The General Assembly of the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 countries that takes action on human rights, peace, and climate change) gathered at its headquarters in New York City to set the UN's agenda for the year ahead. In a speech, Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, argued that Russia's war against his country was a war against all nations and urged unity and action. Other issues discussed included global inequality and climate change.



Volodymyr Zelensky

GETTY IMAGES (4); FRED JORDAO; COVER IMAGES; PI-POP; REUTERS; SHUTTERSTOCK/BELFAST ZOO

Around the world



Traditional
Lego bricks



Denmark

Lego commits to sustainability

Lego announced it remains "fully committed" to finding sustainable materials to make its colorful bricks, after an initial effort to make them with recycled bottles didn't work. In 2021, the toymaker said it would move away from oil-based plastics to reduce carbon emissions, which harms the environment.



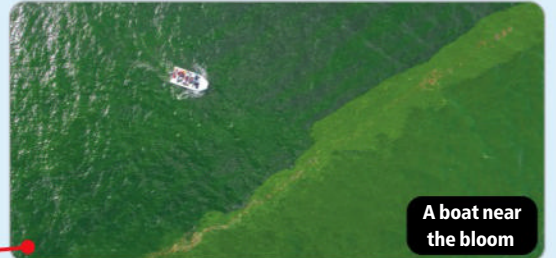
Teachers on strike



Nepal

Schools close during teacher strike

Tens of thousands of teachers in Nepal went on strike (refused to work as a form of protest) for several days, closing schools for more than 5 million students. Teachers were protesting a plan for schools to be controlled by local governments, which they said could lower the quality of education for students. After a tentative agreement to address teachers' concerns was reached, they said they would return to their classrooms.



A boat near
the bloom



Thailand

Plankton bloom hits coast

A dense plankton bloom off the eastern coast of Thailand is threatening the jobs of fishers who farm mussels (an edible shellfish) in the water there. A plankton bloom occurs when numbers of the tiny organism suddenly increase in an area and kill other marine life by taking oxygen and blocking sunlight. Some areas in the Gulf of Thailand currently have more than 10 times the usual amount of plankton.



Women
celebrate.



New Delhi, India

Vote for more women in government

Members of parliament (similar to Congress) in India have voted to reserve one third of its seats for women, which is more than double the current number. After India's most recent national election, 104 out of 788 representatives were women. The law, which was first proposed in 1996, must now be approved by at least 14 of India's 28 state legislatures. It is expected to pass.



Kalambo Falls, Zambia

Significant structure found

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) have found the world's oldest wooden structure beside a river. The two logs, crafted to fit together, are nearly 500,000 years old. Experts believe they were part of a platform used as a walkway, a place to live, or a store. The find suggests that ancient people weren't nomads (people who traveled from place to place), since they had settled to build.



One of the
archaeologists



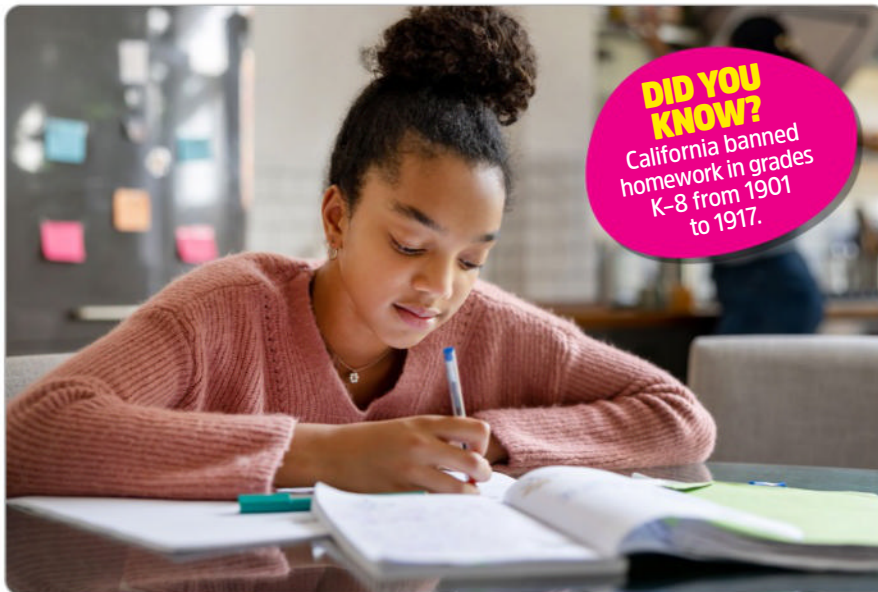
The big debate

Should homework be eliminated?

Some say extra work after school makes a difference. Others argue it's a waste of time.

What you need to know

- US students spend an average of 6.1 hours a week on homework. Kids in Finland, whose education system is ranked higher than America's, have less than half as much homework.
- Research has shown that time spent on homework in elementary school doesn't affect achievement. In middle and high school, homework has a slight positive effect on test scores.
- A Florida district banned homework for elementary students. Instead, they read for 20 minutes a day.



DID YOU KNOW?
California banned homework in grades K-8 from 1901 to 1917.

Teens are getting more homework than they used to, according to a recent national study. Today, they have an average of one hour of homework each night, which is twice as much homework as teenagers in the mid-1990s had. It's also more homework than students receive in other countries. That includes Japan and Denmark, where students regularly perform better than American kids do on standardized tests. The amount of homework US students get varies from one school to another, but some schools have gotten rid of homework altogether. What do you think? Should homework be eliminated?

Yes—kids need downtime

Kids spend a big part of their day on schoolwork. Why should they have to do homework, too? It's tiring and means you have less free time for family or hobbies. Homework can be stressful and lead to arguments—your parents may have to nag you to do it. If you get stuck, they may be too busy to help or could confuse you by using different methods than your teacher does. That can turn you off to learning. There's little evidence that homework helps children—in fact, some research shows it actually increases stress in young students. Meanwhile, students who get very little homework in other countries still get good test results.

No—homework helps you

Homework allows you to practice what you learned in school, make sure you understand it, and learn more about the material. There is research showing that some homework, particularly in math, helps students remember the information and perform better on tests. Having homework teaches you how to work independently and encourages you to be organized because you have to turn it in on time. The assignments also prepare you for the increased workload you'll have in upper grades. Finally, homework is a good way for parents to see what their kids are doing in school.

YES 3 reasons why homework should be eliminated

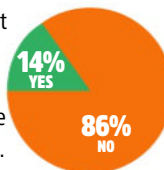
- 1 Kids spend enough time in school—evenings and weekends should be for doing hobbies and relaxing with family.
- 2 Homework can be stressful. It can lead to arguments and even make learning less fun or interesting for students.
- 3 Homework does not necessarily improve how much you learn, so it's pointless.

NO 3 reasons why homework should not be eliminated

- 1 Homework helps you make sure you know what you learned in class and in some cases can improve grades.
- 2 It teaches you to work on your own and to be disciplined and organized, which are important life skills.
- 3 Homework allows your parents to get involved in your education and help you.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if pickleball should be banned in public. Your votes made it clear that you want the hit game to stay: 86% said no, while 14% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think homework should be eliminated or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Passing the ball

Damien Wilkins is helping to shape the careers of young basketball players.

Damien Wilkins, age 43, has spent a lifetime playing basketball, including several seasons in the NBA (National Basketball Association). Now he is helping to guide the next generation of players as the general manager of Overtime Elite, a new basketball league focused on developing young players. The league is the subject of a documentary series called *One Shot: Overtime Elite*.

The six-part series, now streaming on Amazon Prime, follows some of Overtime Elite's players as they pursue their basketball dreams. It features twins Amen and Ausar Thompson, who were top-five picks in the 2023 NBA Draft, and Somto Cyril, who has committed to play basketball at the University of Kentucky in 2024.



One Shot:
Overtime Elite

Basketball runs in Wilkins' family. His father, Gerald Wilkins, is a former NBA player, and one of his uncles, Dominique Wilkins, is in the NBA Hall of Fame. A native of North Carolina, Wilkins played basketball at North Carolina State and the University of Georgia, then began his NBA career with the Seattle SuperSonics in 2004. After his playing career ended in 2018, he joined the NBA Players Association, assisting players with their career development.

Wilkins told *The Week Junior* he joined Overtime Elite to "give back to the game that's given so much to me." So far, he is pleased with Overtime Elite's success in sending young players to the NBA and with the positive feedback the documentary series has received. "There's a lot to celebrate," he said.



Damien Wilkins

TEAM USA
Damien Wilkins represented the US National Basketball Team at the 2015 Pan American Games, winning a bronze medal.

Singer is honored

Colombian singer-songwriter Shakira received the Video Vanguard Award at the MTV Music Awards on September 12. She is the first singer from South America to win the prize, which recognizes an artist's contributions to the music video art form. Shakira, age 46, rose to fame in the late 1990s, singing hits that mixed Spanish and English while performing her signature dance moves. "I want to share this award with my fans, who have always supported me through thick and thin," Shakira said in her acceptance speech.



Shakira



Quinn Mitchell

Teen's focus on politics

Quinn Mitchell, age 15, has captured national attention with his interest in politics. Since age 10, he has attended more than 80 political rallies and seen about 35 Presidential candidates when they have visited Mitchell's home state of New Hampshire, an important state in the process of selecting a political party's Presidential nominee. He discusses his interactions with candidates on his podcast *Into the Tussle*. When Mitchell was asked by *NBC News* what drives him to attend political events, he said he wants to be part of "history being made in my backyard."

OVERHEARD



"Go home and read to your adult."

Best-selling children's book author Kate DiCamillo on the advice she gives young readers at her book events



Animals and the environment

WOW!

Bears can gain up to four pounds a day as they fatten up for the winter.



Bear 747, also known as "Bear Force One," was last year's winner.

A bear-cam rescue

Fat Bear fans who tuned into a livestream from Katmai National Park on September 5 saw a lost hiker mouthing, "Help me." Concerned viewers notified the people managing the video stream, and they told park rangers. Three hours later, a search and rescue team brought the hiker to safety.



The hiker

Fat Bear Week returns for 10th year

Fat Bear Week is kicking off on October 4 through 10. It will be the 10th annual celebration of the bears living in Katmai National Park in Alaska as they put on weight before they begin to hibernate (go into a deep sleep) during the winter.

Bears do not eat or drink when they hibernate. During that time, they can lose up to one third of their body weight, so it's important that they have plenty of fat to spare beforehand. The main food source for Katmai's bears prior to hibernation season is salmon, which they start feeding on in the summer.

During Fat Bear Week, bears are sorted into pairs in a bracket (a type of chart), and fans vote

online for the bear in each pair that they think is fatter. The bears with the most votes move on to semifinal and final rounds to decide the one fattest bear. Fat Bear Junior is held before the main event, giving the younger

generation its time in the spotlight as people vote on their favorite chubby cub. A livestream from cameras set up throughout Katmai National Park can be seen online throughout the year.

Fat Bear Week started in 2014 as Fat Bear Tuesday. A bear named 480 Otis won the title that year and has remained a major player in the competition, winning it three more times. Last year, bear 747, nicknamed "Bear Force One,"

took his second championship title after a previous win in 2020. A "giant among bears," as Fat Bear Week creator Mike Fitz called him, 747 was estimated to have weighed about 1,400 pounds last fall. In the tournament's final round, he defeated female bear 901, who put together a strong rookie campaign for her first Fat Bear Week. Meanwhile, a bear cub belonging to bear 909 emerged ahead of the pack to win last year's Fat Bear Junior competition.

Last year's competition was rocked by scandal, as Katmai National Park discovered that fake votes had been submitted on behalf of another bear. Park officials said that from now on there will be an extra security measure to prevent fake votes. To find out more and read the big bears' biographies, see before-and-after photos, and cast votes, go to fatbearweek.org.



A "before" photo of the 2022 Fat Bear Junior champion



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Savanna Portage State Park, Minnesota

Spread across 15,818 acres, this state park has open grasslands, lakes, bogs, and hills. The park is named for the Savanna Portage Trail, which was historically used by Native Americans and, later, by European fur traders. Visitors to the park can also hike the Continental Divide trail. Water on one side of the divide flows to the Mississippi River, while the other side flows to Lake Superior. Animals such as moose, coyotes, skunks, and wolves can be found roaming the park, and birdwatchers can spot loons, Canada geese, warblers, and a variety of other songbirds.



A yellow-rumped warbler



TONGUE TOOLS

A cat's tongue is covered with tiny spines, called papillae, which it can use to comb its fur.

Tuna is a delicacy for cats.

Why cats like tuna so much

Scientists have figured out why even the fussiest felines love tuna. According to a new research study, cats' tongues are the key to enjoying the fish.

Cats, like humans, have taste buds on their tongues that sense certain flavors, such as bitter, sour, and salty. However, cats don't crave candy because they do not have a receptor that recognizes sweetness. Instead, they adore umami, a savory or meaty flavor.

Eating meat makes sense for cats, which originally lived in the desert. But fish are not

usually found in the desert, so researchers wondered why it's now a feline favorite.

The team examined a cat's tongue and discovered that its taste receptors attach to two chemicals that are found in high amounts in tuna, enhancing the umami flavor. When the researchers offered bowls of liquid to 25 cats, most preferred the bowls containing those chemicals. Now that they know the science behind the flavor cats love, experts can design foods and medicines that taste better to our feline friends.

Animal of the week

African egg-eating snake

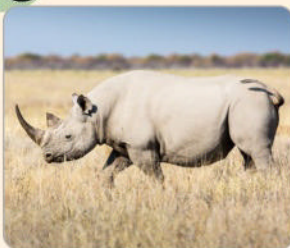


A new study found that this small, non-venomous snake can gulp down prey five times the size of its head, thanks to stretchy skin near its jaws. The nearly toothless snake swallows an egg, then uses its spine to crush the shell and eat the inside.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 7 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Savannas (grasslands) of West Africa
- **DIET:** Bird eggs
- **SIZE:** Up to 40 inches long
- **FUN FACT:** These snakes can use their tongues to "smell" if an egg is rotten.



Good week / Bad week



Southern white rhinos

In South Africa, 2,000 southern white rhinos that were bred in captivity will be released. A conservation group is planning to move the rhinos to secure areas where they will be safe from hunters while they get used to living in the wild.



An Indian roller

Birds in India

A new report has identified 178 wild bird species in India that urgently need help, including 14 that were thought to be in better condition. The report said their populations are falling, in part because of climate change and pollution.



"Do dolphins have a love language?" Sophie, 11, Washington

Sasha Winkler

Biological anthropology expert, UCLA

Dolphins have many ways of communicating, such as by making whistles, squawks, and clicking noises. They also show affection by swimming together, playing, touching fins, and doing other kinds of nuzzling. Maybe some of those behaviors are part of their love language!



Atlantic spotted dolphins

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Sasha Winkler's research at sashawinkler.com.



A puzzle toy beloved

The Rubik's Cube has challenged and thrilled players for nearly 50 years.

A small cube with colorful sides that began as a math lesson became the most popular puzzle toy in history.



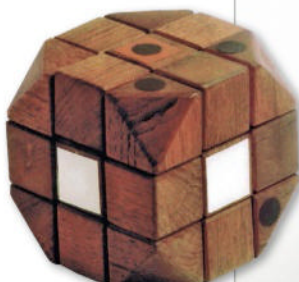
Ernő Rubik

Who invented the Rubik's Cube?

The cube was created by a Hungarian sculptor and professor of architecture, Ernő Rubik, in 1974. He was interested in geometry (a branch of math focusing on measurement) and wanted to find a way to demonstrate 3D (three-dimensional) movement to his students. Using wood blocks, Rubik built a "Magic Cube." Once he showed the invention to his students, Rubik said he found it "nearly impossible to put down."

A toy takes off

In 1975, Rubik obtained a Hungarian patent (exclusive rights held by the inventor of something) for his creation. In 1977, he started selling the cube, eventually renamed Rubik's Cube, as a toy in local stores in Hungary's capital, Budapest. The game was played the same way it is today: Players begin with a cube that is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches and features nine colored squares on each side. Each side comes set to one of the solid colors—which are red, green, yellow, orange, blue, and white—and the player shuffles the cube to mix them up. The challenge is to return each side to its original solid color. The game may sound simple to play, but there are more than 43 quintillion



The Magic Cube

FUN FACT
It took Ernő Rubik about a month to solve his own cube for the first time.

Since its launch, millions of people have attempted to solve the Rubik's Cube.

World records with a twist

Fastest

Blink and you might miss it. In 2023, Max Park of California set the record for the fastest time to solve the Rubik's Cube: 3.13 seconds.

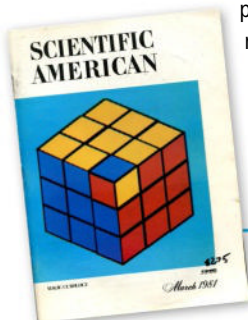


Blindfolded

In 2023, a teenager from Florida named Tommy Cherry set a new world record for solving the rotating cube while blindfolded. He unscrambled it in 12.78 seconds.



A 1981 magazine cover





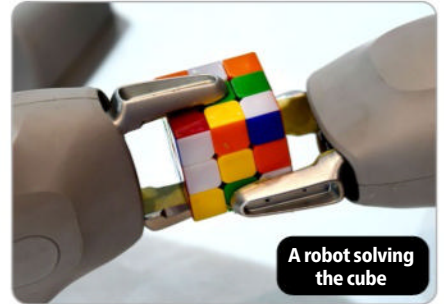
by generations

DID YOU KNOW?

Speed cubing events, where people compete to solve a cube the fastest, started in 1982 in Budapest, Hungary.



WOW!
Any configuration of a Rubik's Cube can be solved in no more than 20 moves.



A robot solving the cube

The cube goes global

In September 1979, Rubik reached a deal with a US company to release his puzzle internationally. The Rubik's Cube made its debut at toy fairs in Paris, London, and New York City—and was a major hit. Between 1980 and 1982, more than 100 million Rubik's Cubes were sold around the world, and it won many Toy of the Year awards. In 1981, the Rubik's Cube appeared on the cover of *Scientific American* magazine, and an animated series titled *Rubik, the Amazing Cube* followed in 1983. While other hit toys came and went over time, the Rubik's Cube captivated players for generations. The toy has even inspired scientists, who have built robots that can solve the puzzle in milliseconds. Since its launch, more than 450 million Rubik's Cubes have been sold worldwide, making it the best-selling puzzle game in history.

Variations on the original

In the years after the introduction of the original Rubik's Cube, new versions of the toy followed.



Rubik's Color Blocks

Rubik's Color Blocks have challenged players with cubes in various sizes, while the Rubik's Twist is made of triangles. One of the hardest versions, Rubik's Impossible, changes colors depending on the angle at which it's held. Another cube, Rubik's Futuro, uses motion sensors to switch colors, plays music, and allows users to play opponents. The newest cube is the Phantom, with colors fading in and out under the heat of a player's touch.



Rubik's Twist

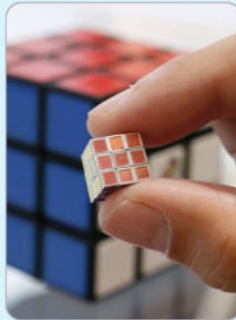
Largest

The largest cube on the planet, according to Guinness World Records, is in Hong Kong. It's about 8 feet wide by 8 feet tall and spins. The giant cube was displayed in a mall in 2021.



Smallest

The tiniest cube in the world is so small that players use tweezers to move its squares. It was created in the UK with a 3D printer and, at .22 inches wide, is about the size of a fingertip.





Laughter proven to be good for us

New research has found that comedy doesn't just make us feel good—it actually has the power to improve health. A recent study set out to test whether or not “laughter therapy” could help people who have heart disease.

The study involved 26 adults, with an average age of 64. They all had coronary artery disease, which is when the supply of blood to the heart is blocked or held up by plaque (fatty substances) that grow in the coronary arteries. Coronary arteries are the big tubes that send blood to the heart.

Over three months, 13 of the adults were asked to watch two hour-long comedy shows every week. The other 13 were asked to watch two documentary films on serious topics like politics and the Amazon rainforest. After this, the participants were examined by doctors.

The group that watched comedy showed a big improvement in the amount of oxygen the heart could pump around the body. Oxygen is the gas we breathe in to survive. The arteries of the people in the comedy group also got better at expanding, which meant that more blood

could flow through them. There was less plaque in the arteries afterward too, cutting the person's risk of having a heart attack or stroke.

Marco Saffi, a professor at a hospital that trains doctors in Brazil, led the study. He said laughter helps the heart

because it releases chemicals in the body called endorphins. They reduce inflammation, which can lead to heart disease, and help the heart relax.

Having a good laugh also reduces levels of stress hormones (chemicals that occur naturally in the body). Stress

hormones are the body's natural alarm system, which kicks in if a person is in a tense situation. They're great for helping people cope with danger, but they can put a strain on the heart if they stay in a person's system for too long.

Saffi thinks the results show that laughter therapy could be used to treat patients at risk of heart problems. He said, “It does not have to be TV programs—people with heart disease could be invited to comedy evenings or encouraged to enjoy fun evenings with friends and family.”

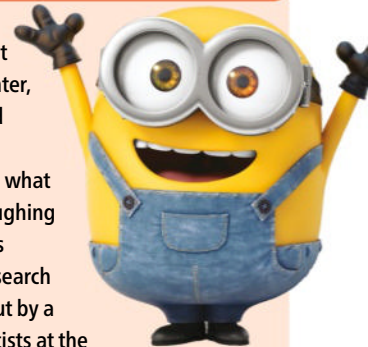


Watching comedies can improve heart health.

The different types of giggles

There are many different kinds of laughter, and the sound of it changes depending on what people are laughing at, a study has found. The research was carried out by a team of scientists at the University of Virginia. Participants were asked to watch three types of videos and were recorded laughing nearly 3,400 times. Researchers analyzed the laughter and compared it with the films being watched.

Films that were funny in a typical “straightforward” way led to a feel-good, infectious kind of laughter. Amusing videos that showed scenes that would be considered “cute” produced quieter, shorter laughs. Clips featuring something going wrong led to people guffawing more loudly and letting loose a trumpet-like blast of laughter.





Alabama teen finds prehistoric whale fossil

A high school student in Alabama made an extraordinary discovery on her family's property during her summer vacation. Lindsey Stallworth, age 16, found a whale skull fossil (preserved remains or impressions of ancient plants and animals) that may belong to a previously unknown species.

Stallworth was looking for shark tooth fossils with her science teacher from the Alabama School of Math and Science (ASMS), Drew Gentry. Stallworth had found fossils before and brought them to school.

While they were digging on land owned by Stallworth's family, Stallworth and Gentry saw large bones sticking out of the ground. They spent about a week digging and found a lower jaw bone

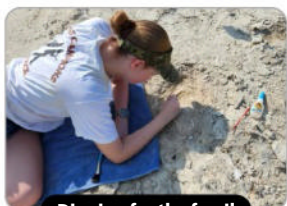
with a large tooth, which indicated that it had belonged to a whale.

The creature is thought to have lived 34 million years ago, when what is now Alabama was covered with water. Its

species has not been determined, but it may be one that has never been seen before. It may belong to a group of whales that includes *Basilosaurus cetoides*, a species that lived at

that time and grew up to 60 feet long.

Gentry believes the full skeleton of this newly found whale is 15 to 20 feet long. They will dig for more of its remains next summer. Meanwhile, Stallworth is cleaning and studying the skull in a science lab at ASMS. "It's still really interesting," she said. "What would it have looked like 34 million years ago?"



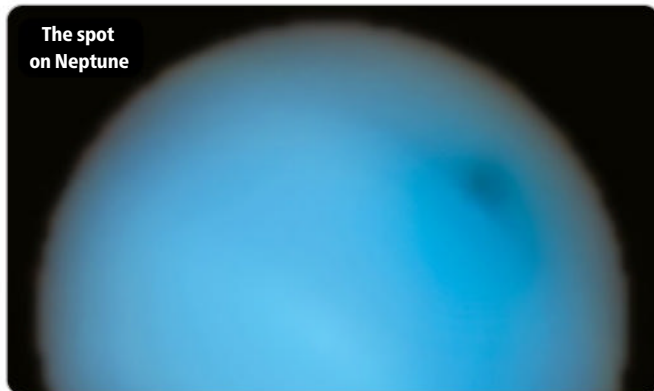
Digging for the fossil



Lindsey Stallworth examines the fossil in the lab.

DID YOU KNOW?
The extinct whale species *Basilosaurus cetoides* is the official state fossil of Alabama.

The spot on Neptune



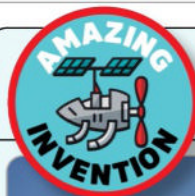
Neptune's dark spot seen from Earth

For the first time, researchers studying Neptune, the farthest planet in our solar system, detected a dark spot on its surface using an Earth-based telescope. These spots are swirling storms in the planet's atmosphere. They've been seen before from space telescopes.

In 1989, a NASA (US space agency) space probe called Voyager 2 saw what's known as the "Great Dark Spot" while flying by Neptune. Later, the Hubble Space Telescope

saw dark spots too. The spots are common but disappear quickly, making them hard to study.

The team was using a telescope in Chile called the Very Large Telescope. They also saw a bright cloud next to the spot, which has never been seen before. Observing these things from Earth could greatly advance knowledge about Neptune. "Finally, technology has advanced to enable this from the ground," said Michael Wong, a study author.



An airless bike tire inspired by NASA



The METL tire

A new airless bicycle tire is flexible and sustainable and will never go flat. Instead of pressurized air, the METL tire, made by Smart Tire Company, has a spring inside. It's made using a mix of metals that NASA is testing for use on future missions to the Moon and Mars.

The special metal allows the spring to stretch and bend under pressure, then quickly bounce back to its original shape. It's covered by a replaceable tread that the company said uses about half as much rubber as a regular bike tire. That's helpful for the environment.



Apply to join

We're now accepting applications for the Spring 2024 program.

We're conducting a national search for 12 students, ages 8 to 14, who want to have their voices heard about the issues and causes that matter to them. This will be *The Week Junior's* fifth session of Junior Council. During previous sessions, council members attended virtual meetings with *The Week Junior* editors, interviewed guest speakers, and completed writing activities. Use the information below to find out more about Junior Council and apply for the Spring 2024 program.



Speak up and speak out!

Junior Council members will dive into turning their ideas into action. Kids ages 8 to 14 will discover how to be heard by local, state, and national leaders—and how to share big ideas for a big impact—directly from *The Week Junior* editors and mentors. A project created by council members may appear in a future issue of the magazine.



How it works

The Week Junior staff and mentors will guide Junior Council members through regular video calls and virtual workshops from January through May 2024.

There will be about six sessions, with a guest speaker at some meetings. Other sessions will focus on helping council members produce content for the magazine. The council will meet during weekday evenings (Eastern Time) to accommodate members in different time zones.

Junior Council!



Participants in
previous Junior
Council sessions



Apply today!

With an adult, go to juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com to download the application and fill it out. A parent or guardian must review and sign the form. The completed application, along with a photo of yourself (school picture or similar), should be emailed by a parent or guardian to juniorcouncil@theweekjunior.com. The deadline to submit the application is October 23, 2023. See the official rules at juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com/rules. Send an email to juniorcouncil@theweekjunior.com with any questions.

NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY. Void where prohibited. Open to legal residents of the US, DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, 8–14 years of age. Begins 9/26/23 at 12:00:01 am ET and ends on 10/23/23 at 11:59:59 pm ET. Odds of being selected as a Junior Council member depend on the total number of eligible entries received and adherence to the judging criteria. Subject to Official Rules at juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com/rules. Sponsor: FUTURE PLC and its division named THE WEEK JUNIOR, 135 West 41st Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017.



DID YOU KNOW?

The first women's college hockey team in the US was formed at Brown University in 1964.



Taylor Heise, the number one draft pick

Ice hockey history



A team in 1917

An early promoter of women's ice hockey was Lady Isobel Stanley, who lived in Canada in the late 1800s. Her father was a government official who also liked hockey. The first women's game on record took place at their home in 1891. The Stanley Cup, the oldest prize in men's hockey, is named for her father.

New hockey league holds draft

Excitement is building for the first season of the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), which will begin in January. It is made up of three Canadian teams and three US teams, which do not have names yet. Veteran players signed with teams in early September, and the PWHL held its first draft on September 18. At this event, teams selected players from colleges and from other hockey leagues.

The historic first pick was the 2022 women's college hockey player of the year, Taylor Heise. She will play for the PWHL's Minnesota franchise. Heise grew up in the state and played hockey at the University of Minnesota. She said

she was honored she could play professionally and show young girls that "anything is possible if you keep working hard."



A total of 90 players from 10 different countries were selected in the draft. They will be joining stars that include the captain of Team USA, Hilary Knight, who signed with the Boston franchise, and Team Canada's captain, Marie-Philip Poulin, who will play for the Montreal team.

The PWHL was created because many top players were unhappy in a league called the Premier Hockey Federation (PHF). They wanted higher salaries and more attention for the league.

The Professional Women's Hockey Players Association, a union that fights for players' rights, put together a competing league that included big-name stars, but in June, the leagues agreed to merge to form the PWHL.

One famous athlete involved in the new league is former tennis champion and women's sports advocate Billie Jean King. She attended the draft and announced Heise's name. In a speech beforehand, King recognized the work of the players who are helping to start the league. "Trailblazing is bold, it's brave, and it can be very scary and lonely," she said. "But it's worth it."

In the PWHL's first season, each team will play 24 games. The league has plans to expand that number in future seasons.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

GYMNASTICS

On September 19, Simone Biles secured a spot at the upcoming gymnastics World Championships by winning the all-around competition at the US women's Artistic World Championships and Pan American Games Selection Camp. She had been in third place going into the final rotation. Biles is the first woman to qualify for six US World Championships. She has won 25 medals at Worlds over the years.



Tigst Assefa

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Miami Dolphins scored 70 points in a win over the Denver Broncos on September 24, the most points scored by an NFL team since 1966.

RUNNING

On September 24, Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa won the Berlin Marathon and broke the women's marathon world record. She ran the 26.2-mile race in 2:11:53, more than two minutes faster than the previous record. It was her second straight Berlin Marathon win.



FUN FACT
Tennis games were originally played with balls that were black or white.

Team World players with the Laver Cup trophy

Tennis stars compete for Laver Cup

From September 22 through September 24, men's tennis stars competed at the 2023 Laver Cup in Vancouver, Canada. It is an annual team event featuring six top European players and six top players from the rest of the world. It includes singles and doubles matches, with teams getting points for each win. Team World won, 13–2, and claimed the Cup for the second year in a row.

The Laver Cup was first held in 2017. The event is named after Rod Laver, an Australian who is considered one of the best tennis players of the 20th century. He is the only player in history to win more than one Calendar Grand Slam, which means winning all four major tennis tournaments in one year. He achieved this in 1962 and 1969.

At the Laver Cup, each team has a captain who is a legendary former player. This year,

Team Europe was led by Bjorn Borg of Sweden and Team World was led by John McEnroe of the US. Team World included US players Ben Shelton, Frances Tiafoe, Tommy Paul, Taylor Fritz, and Christopher Eubanks, who was an alternate.

During the first two days of the tournament, Team World won seven out of eight matches. They entered the final day with a 10–2 lead. In that day's first match, Shelton and Tiafoe, who played each other in the quarterfinals of this year's US Open, joined forces in doubles against Andrey Rublev of Russia and Hubert Hurkacz of Poland. In the best-of-three-sets match, Shelton and Tiafoe managed to hold off their opponents through two tiebreakers to win, 7–6 (7–4), 7–6 (7–5). Team World earned three points from the victory and clinched the title.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Diana Ramos

AGE: 24 SPORT: TRACK AND FIELD
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Jumping in I started track and field when I was about 15. It wasn't because I loved it—it was to spend time with my friends. At my first practice, I tried the high jump. I enjoyed it because I used to do gymnastics and it had a bit of that. When I started winning national championships in Venezuela, where I'm from, I realized I was good at it.

Sky high My favorite thing about the high jump is feeling like you're flying. People always ask me, "How do you do that?" It's just physics. You run, you get power to jump, and you overcome gravity.



Self reflection I see a sports psychologist, and one thing I got from that is journaling. I use my lunch hour to be alone, write in a journal, think about how I feel about myself, and try to stay positive.

Keeping calm Before I jump at a meet, I breathe in and out twice to settle myself, focus on what I need to do, gather my confidence, then go for it. Our coach tells us to be like robots.

Happy surprise Last year, I finished fourth at our conference championships. That was a really big accomplishment—no one was expecting anything from me. My goal was to show up, have fun, and do my best. That's basically what I did.

Dual strengths A lot of people think international students are not that great in school. I'm proud of myself for being good at academics and trying to do my best at track.

Wise words Sports are not always about the performance. I'm not the best high jumper, but I gained so much because of track. My advice is to get out there, move your body, and make friends.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Keith Telesca**

Team: **Chicago White Sox (Lower Merion Little League AAAA Division)**



"First and foremost, he is a nice guy. He cares about everyone and puts in a lot of time and effort so we succeed and, most of all, have fun. He gives people second chances and always knows the best move for us. His focus on teamwork and getting us to play our best is one reason he's won multiple championships. He has made me a better baseball player and person." Tani, 11, Pennsylvania

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Arts and entertainment

DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas Edison invented the first light bulb at his lab in New Jersey in 1879.



"Pulse Forest" is part of *Listening Forest*.

Outdoor art with sound and light

Listening Forest at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Arkansas is made up of eight interactive installations in the woods.

A popular immersive art exhibit is on display in the woods next to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. *Listening Forest* has eight large installations by artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer that use light and sound and undergo changes based on the way people interact with them. It is open through December 31.

Lozano-Hemmer was born in Mexico and has had his work shown in cities around the world. This is the biggest display of his outdoor installations and contains a mix of old and new

pieces that use technology including artificial intelligence, sensors, microphones, thermal cameras, and digital projections. "The sound and light experience will surprise and delight guests of all ages," the museum's executive director, Rod Bigelow, told *The Week Junior*.



Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

One piece, "Remote Pulse," can connect two people on different sides of the woods. If each person puts their hands on a set of sensors, they can feel the other person's pulse. Overhead, light beams pulse with each of their heartbeats and the beams cross one another in the sky. In

"Pulse Forest," visitors' heartbeats can control 3,000 light bulbs extending from the ground.

Because the show is outdoors, Lozano-Hemmer was mindful of the impact it would have on plants and animals. There are computers connected to a system that tracks bird migration, and the intensity of the lights from the installations are lowered when flocks fly overhead.

The museum believes *Listening Forest* delivers a sense of wonder and magic. It also helps connect people visually and symbolically. "By combining art and technology, we are able to share our stories, create intimacy, and strengthen our sense of community," Lozano-Hemmer said.

3 more light-filled shows

Gleam

The Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, features this light installation exhibit through October 28. One piece (at right) has moths made of glass and acrylic.



Georgetown Glow

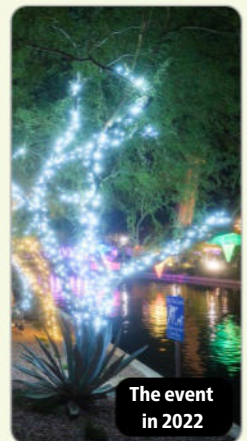
This annual outdoor event is held in the oldest neighborhood of Washington, DC. Last year's show had five pieces of light artwork. This year, the event begins December 1 and runs until January 7.



A 2016 installation

Canal Convergence

"The Power of Play" will be the theme of this public art event in Scottsdale, Arizona, from November 3–12. It will include swings under light rainbows and a piece inspired by video games.



The event in 2022



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Fright Krewe (Hulu) (Peacock)

This new animated horror series for kids follows a group of misfit teen friends in New Orleans, Louisiana, who are granted superpowers. Their city is said to be one of the most haunted places in America, so now they have to protect it from ancient demon creatures.

The next *Power Rangers* series

For the past 30 years, the teen superheroes known as the Power Rangers have been battling on-screen villains. Now the franchise is expanding in more ways than one. Netflix has just released the new series *Power Rangers: Cosmic Fury*, which features nine core Rangers—more than in past series.

The *Power Rangers* are based on the Japanese TV program *Super Sentai*. In 1993, the *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* premiered in the US and introduced kids to a group of five teens who morphed into superheroes. They each wore a different-colored suit and used dinosaur-like robots and martial arts to fight off evil threats in the galaxy. It is one of the longest-running live-action series for kids.

Cosmic Fury picks up from the events in the recent Netflix film *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*:

Once & Always and features characters from *Dino Fury*, the 2022 *Power Rangers* series on Netflix. Actor David Yost, who played Blue Power Ranger Billy from 1993 to 1996, is bringing his character to the new show, where he will be a mentor to the younger Rangers. Unlike past series in which each episode was its own story, *Cosmic Fury* will have a plot that develops over the season.



Mighty Morphin Power Rangers

The biggest change, however, involves the leader of the team, who is typically the Red Ranger. For the first time, the Red Ranger will be a woman for a full series. She will be played by actress Hunter Deno, the Pink Ranger from *Dino Fury*. When Deno announced the news about her character on social media, she wrote, "My 5-year-old self would tell you she couldn't be red because girl rangers were pink or yellow. I wish I could go back and tell her women can wear red and be leaders too."



The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar (Netflix)

Roald Dahl's short story collection *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More* is the basis for this short film. It stars Benedict Cumberbatch (Marvel's Dr. Strange) as a man who finds a way to see without using his eyes.



Holey Moley (Netflix)

Past episodes are now streaming of this wild ABC competition series that combines mini golf and epic obstacle courses. The show is hosted by basketball star Steph Curry and features funny commentary as players compete on 10 courses in hopes of winning \$25,000.



READER RECOMMENDS

The Cat Returns



The Cat Returns Max (Prime Video or rent on demand)

"This is an exciting movie and the perfect entertainment for cat lovers. It is a fantasy-adventure made by the famous Japanese animation company Studio Ghibli and a spinoff of *Whisper of the Heart*. In the movie, a girl named Haru saves a cat who turns out to be a prince from a cat kingdom. To thank her for what she's done, the King of Cats tries to reward her by transporting her to the cat kingdom to marry his son. If you like cats, *The Cat Returns* is a great movie for you!" Fox, 10, Oregon

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



On screen

DID YOU KNOW?

A full Moon that occurs closest to the start of fall in late September is called a Harvest Moon.



Farm in an enchanted land

Harvest Moon: The Winds of Anthos is a new fantasy farm life game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, Xbox systems, PlayStation platforms, and the PC. The game is part of the Harvest Moon franchise, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The story in the game takes place in the enchanted land of Anthos, where people lived and farmed in peace. They were protected by the Harvest Goddess and the Harvest Sprites, magical elfin people who have appeared in many Harvest Moon games. After a sudden volcano eruption, Anthos split into five separate villages. The game's action starts 10 years later, when the main character finds a letter written by the Harvest Goddess and decides to reunite the villages.



Once you arrive in Anthos, you get right to work, starting up a farm and filling it with crops, animals, and barns. There are vegetables to grow and cows, chickens, horses, and sheep to raise. It can be hard work, but your character can also fish, go horseback riding, or spend time training dogs.

Each village in Anthos has a different environment, such as the beach or mountains. Your character can get to know bachelors and bachelorettes who live there and then marry one.

Among the game's most important supporting characters is Doc Jr., a mad genius who creates different technologies you can use. One of his inventions helps players move their farms throughout Anthos, which will help you slowly reunite the communities that have been split apart for so long.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

VIOLA THE BIRD

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-CelloBird

Help a bird play an instrument similar to a cello on this new site from Google. Just use your mouse to move her bow. In Concert mode, you follow guides to perform well-known classical tunes, and in Freestyle mode you can create your own songs. There's a button to record the performance.



CHANNEL OF THE WEEK



HYPNO MOTION

youtube.com/@HypnoMotion

This YouTube channel is filled with stop-motion animation videos. There are cooking videos that use ingredients made of Legos, plus animations that let you see inside sliced fruits, vegetables, and other items. Behind-the-scenes videos will help you learn about the complex filming process.



APP OF THE WEEK

PINWHEELGPT

Google Play, Apple App Store

ChatGPT is a popular online chatbot that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to answer questions and have conversations. This app is similar, but it was designed for kids ages 7 to 12. You can use it for different types of requests, such as asking how something works.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Ellie's Deli: Wishing on Matzo Ball Soup!

By Lisa Greenwald,

illustrated by Galia Bernstein

(Andrews McMeel Publishing)

Business at the Jewish American deli that's been in Ellie's family for four generations is slow. When Ellie, 11, overhears her parents' discussion about closing the deli and moving, she makes a wish over her grandmother's pot of matzo ball soup for sales to pick up. She and her best friend, Ava, decide to brainstorm ways to make the restaurant more modern. They come up with a plan to add a website and delivery service. Just as Ellie starts to feel optimistic about the fate of the family business, her grandmother gets sick and a restaurant group offers to buy the deli for a large sum of money. Ellie's parents seem tempted by the offer. Will she be able to convince them that the business needs to stay in the family? Resourceful and determined, Ellie creates goals, which are listed before each chapter. This charming story includes recipes for chicken soup, sweet and sour meatballs, and other Jewish favorites. A subplot about a new girl at school makes the story even more appealing and relatable.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Lisa Greenwald

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?

I had a vision of a girl with magical soup. I wanted to write a story about a family business with grandparents who are very involved in a character's daily life. All those pieces came together for this book.

What makes matzo ball soup special to you?

My Bubbie's chicken matzo

ball soup is the best food I've ever had in my whole life. It was the ultimate comfort.

Like Ellie, did you have sisters growing up?

I didn't, but I always had this

fantasy of having a sister because it's a built-in best friend you can talk to about anything.

Best advice for kids?

Keep a journal. It sounds so

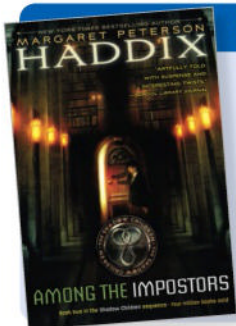


READER RECOMMENDS

Among the Impostors By Margaret Peterson Haddix

"This book is about a boy named Luke who is an illegal third child in a futuristic sci-fi world who finally comes out of hiding. He gets a fake ID and gets transferred to a school for boys. During his time at the school, he makes friends and many enemies. This book is part of a series. It has a lot of drama and action and is really fun to read in your free time." Aria, 12, California

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



4 books that take place in a museum

Set in famous galleries, these picks are full of action and suspense.



J.R. Silver Writes Her World

By Melissa Dassori

(Christy Ottaviano Books)

J.R., who has visited the

Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City many times with her friend Violet, has a mystery to solve. The events she writes about in her English assignments are starting to come true. What's going on? Ages 8–12



The Mona Lisa Vanishes

By Nicholas Day, illustrated by Brett Helquist

(Random House Studio)

The Mona Lisa by Michelangelo is one of the most popular paintings in the world, and this fascinating nonfiction book describes how the painting was stolen from the Louvre, a museum in Paris, France, in 1911 and later returned. Ages 10 and up



Night at the Museum: The Junior Novelization

By Leslie Goldman

(Sourcebooks Young Readers)

In this novel version of the award-winning 2006 film *Night at the Museum*, a guard notices that exhibits at the Museum of Natural History in New York City come to life at night. The guard shares what he's observed with his son, who is skeptical at first. Ages 8–12



Spy School Revolution

By Stuart Gibbs

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Some of this story's best scenes occur at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Ben is trying to track down an evil organization that dates back to the American Revolution (1765–1791). The trail takes him outside the museum, and maps show you where he goes. Ages 8–12



How to...



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 100 million people have the last name Wang, which is the most common surname in the world.

Explore your family's history

Learning more about your relatives' past can be fun and rewarding.

Genealogy (the study of family history) is a popular hobby in the US and around the world. Finding out about your close relatives as well as your ancestors (family members who lived in past times) can help you learn more about your cultural background, feel closer to your family, and strengthen your sense of identity. Here's how you can get started.

Make a family tree

One fun way to begin is by making a family tree. This is a chart that lists people you're related to. (There are many templates online that will give you an idea of how the tree could look.) On a large piece of paper, write the names of the people in your immediate family (your parents and siblings) across the bottom. With help from a parent or other relative, fill in additional family members and draw lines to show how they're connected. Include grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. Keep adding names as far back as you or your relatives can remember.

Research names

Last names, also called surnames, are one way families may be linked across generations. When you look at your family tree, you may see a few common last names. These surnames can give you clues about your family's history. Some last names are related to jobs people may

have held (for example, the name Smith was originally used by blacksmiths), while others might be related to where a family lived. You can find out more about surnames at houseofnames.com or familysearch.org.

Learn your traditions

One way many families honor their heritage is by passing down traditions, such as how you celebrate holidays. This may include food customs that might have originated in a country or region where your relatives once lived. Ask a relative to show you how to make some of your family's special dishes, and write down the recipes for safekeeping. Other traditions that may be passed down are family stories and sentimental items. You and your immediate family can also create new family traditions together.



Bring your loved ones together.

Plan a family reunion

One of the best ways to celebrate your family history and learn more is to get together with your relatives. Consider asking a parent or grandparent if they could help you plan a family reunion. Discuss a convenient location for everyone, whether it's at someone's home, a hotel or restaurant, or a local park. If it's not possible to have a reunion in person, you could plan a time for your relatives to join a video call. This could be a great opportunity to ask people to show photos, add to your family tree, or share their favorite traditions.

4 creative ways to use family photos

Display and reminisce over favorite old pictures with these fun ideas.

Create a collage

Before your next family gathering, ask everyone to bring copies of old family photos. Use them to create a group collage on posterboard.



Match baby photos

Another fun thing to do at a family gathering:



Put a baby picture of each person on the table, and write a number beside each. Have attendees guess who's who. The person with the most correct guesses wins!

Assemble a scrapbook

A scrapbook is a great gift for a special family member. Ask relatives to share photos, keepsakes, and memories to include.

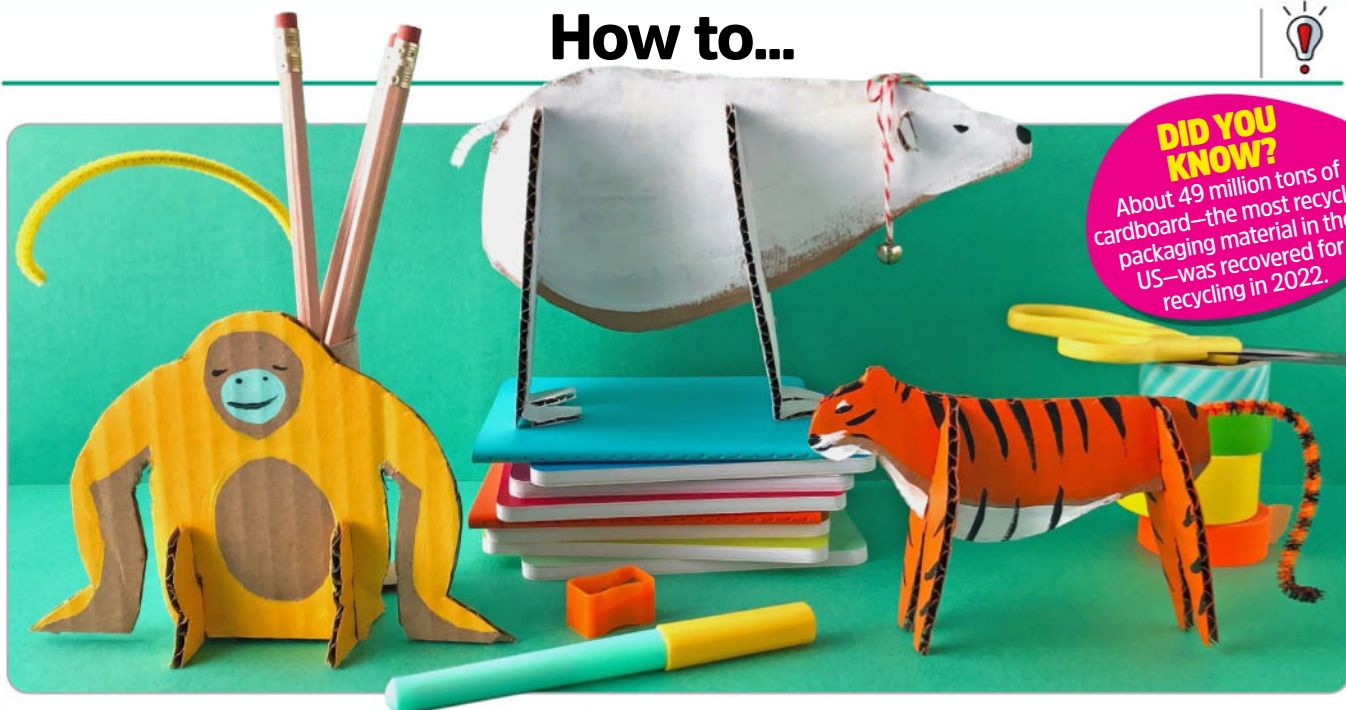


Make your own gift tags

When you exchange gifts with your family



members, print out current or old photos of the recipients and use double-sided tape to attach them to wrapped presents. Everyone can quickly identify their gifts by checking out the photos!



DID YOU KNOW?

About 49 million tons of cardboard—the most recycled packaging material in the US—was recovered for recycling in 2022.

Craft animals from recycled cardboard

What you need

- Pieces of corrugated cardboard, such as from delivery boxes (check your recycling bin)
- Pencil and marker
- Scissors
- Craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Toilet paper tube
- White glue or hot glue (optional)
- Pipe cleaners

Instructions

1. Decide which animal you want to make, then draw the orangutan, polar bear, or tiger body on cardboard with a pencil. For the orangutan, be sure to include the arms. Use the photo above as a guide. Cut out your shape with scissors.
2. Using a separate piece of cardboard, draw the animal's legs with a pencil and cut those out. For the tiger and polar bear, draw two pairs of legs: one for the front and one for the back.
3. Using scissors, cut two slits at the bottom of the animal's body where you want the legs to go. Cut a slit at the top of each of your animal's legs in the middle. At the end, you'll use these slits to fit your animal's body and legs together.
4. Paint your animal. You can follow the designs and colors in the photo above or create your own look. Let dry. Use a marker to draw on eyes, a nose, and a mouth.
5. To turn your orangutan into a pencil holder, add a toilet paper tube to the back. Trace one end of the tube onto cardboard and cut out the circle. Glue the tube to the back of the orangutan with the cardboard end of the tube at the bottom. Let dry.
6. Assemble the body and legs of your animal by fitting them with the slits you made.
7. Use a pipe cleaner to make a tail. Cut it to the size you want and glue it to the back of your animal, curling it if desired.



ECO TIP
OF THE WEEK

BE AN INGREDIENT DETECTIVE

It can be worthwhile to look at the labels on food packages. This is because some foods are made with ingredients that can be harmful to the environment. Palm oil, for example, found in about half of packaged foods, is a cause of deforestation in Asia. (Deforestation is when trees are cut down and new ones aren't planted to replace them.) Although some palm oil is grown in a way that doesn't harm the environment, some people think it is better to avoid the ingredient if possible. Something else to look for is how far away a product was made. If the product had to be transported on a plane to get to your area, gases were released into the environment.



Read food labels at the grocery store.



Puzzles



Crisscross

Each of these types of fabrics fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

4 letters

FELT
WOOL

5 letters

DENIM
KHAKI
SUEDE
TOILE
TWEED
TWILL

6 letters

FLEECE
VELOUR

7 letters

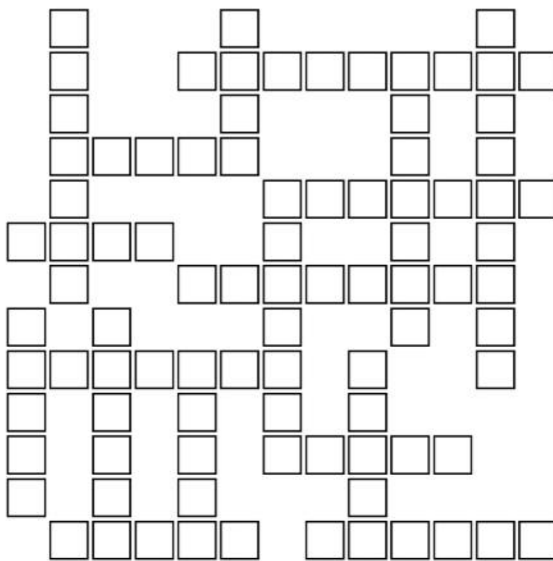
FISHNET
FLANNEL
LEATHER
OILSKIN
SPANDEX

8 letters

CASHMERE

9 letters

POLYESTER
VELVETEEN



Take five

Five 5-letter things on a breakfast table are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | G | C | N |
| B | Y | A | U | E |
| J | E | R | E | T |
| T | A | I | O | P |
| S | U | L | S | L |

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters B-A-R. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

1. Famous doll and 2023 movie that people dressed in pink to see

BAR

2. You grip these to steer a bicycle

BAR

3. "Old Mother" in a nursery rhyme

BAR

4. Without shoes

BAR

5. Make someone feel too self-conscious

BAR

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | | 5 | | |
| 3 | | | | 2 | |
| | | 1 | | | 4 |
| 6 | | | 1 | | |
| | 1 | | | | 3 |
| | | 6 | | 1 | |

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a Rubik's Cube parade appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





It was a saucy day.

Epic tomato battle in Spain

The annual Tomatina festival in Spain is like the ultimate food fight. For one day, the streets of the town of Buñol become a battleground, using overripe tomatoes that would otherwise be thrown away. The festival was inspired by a food fight among local kids in 1945, but it has now become a major event that draws tourists to the town. This year, more than 15,000 people hurled 120 tons of tomatoes at one another. Participants wore goggles to protect their eyes from flying fruit, then hit the showers after the fight ended.



Michelle Wibowo with her sugar structure

Sweet tribute to London landmark

An artist has created a magnificent sculpture of the Tower Bridge in London, in the UK, using 55 pounds of sugar. Michelle Wibowo spent more than 150 hours producing the nearly 2.5-foot-tall copy of the famous landmark. It was one of several pieces of art made from sugar or salt that were on display at an exhibition in London in September. Wibowo said she "jumped at the chance" to sculpt the iconic bridge and found it "really fascinating" to look into its design history in order to re-create every detail for her piece.



He scoots, he scores (a record)!

Athletic bird scoots to success

A cockatoo in Bulgaria has beaten his own world record for riding a bird-sized scooter. Chico rides by holding the handlebars in his beak while pushing off with his foot. Last year, the sporty bird achieved the Guinness World Records title for the fastest 5 meters (16.4 feet) on a scooter by a parrot in 17.79 seconds. Now he has scooted past his own record and completed the course in 14.58 seconds. Chico can also pedal a tiny bicycle and dunk mini basketballs. "He is a natural talent," his owner said.

Real or fake?



Was a koala caught green-handed?

Mystery thief unmasked at last

Humphrey Herington's plant nursery in Australia had a problem: Young seedlings kept disappearing. For months, staff watched visitors carefully, trying to spot the plant burglar. The losses mounted until one day when Herington came to work to find the thief, a koala, dozing in the sun. The evidence? Stems without leaves and a belly so stuffed the creature couldn't move. Herington took the koala, who he named Claude, to some nearby trees. Is this story real, or is it a koa-lie?*

*Real! Humphrey Herington calculated that the adorable thief had pilfered \$3,800 worth of roots and shoots. "He looked very pleased with himself," Herington told BBC News. The staff at the nursery are now erecting a koala-proof fence.



Your turn

Editor's note

I am so impressed with the recipients of the Gloria Barron Prize, announced this week (p2). The 15 winners and 10 finalists, all ages 10 to 18, were honored for their service projects that made a positive difference in the world. I especially liked prize founder T.A. Barron's reference to his mother's "quiet heroism" in describing why the awards are named for her. I imagine she was someone very special, and I like to think that all of us can be heroes in our own lives, one way or another. Congratulations to everyone who received this meaningful prize. At *The Week Junior*, we sponsor our own contest to bring together young people who want to make a difference in the world. The next session of our Junior Council will begin in January, and applications are open now. You can find out more about it, including how to apply to join, on page 16. The deadline to enter is October 23.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



YOUR PHOTOS: WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING



"I made your strawberry smoothie recipe and it was delicious!" **Avani, 8, Alabama**

"The salmon BLT was so good. We added avocado to make it California-style!"
Henrik, 8, California



RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What is heavy going forward but is not backward?
The word "ton"

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Pajama Program

This organization's goal is to give children a comforting bedtime. In addition to providing pajamas and books to children in need across the US and in Puerto Rico, it also trains preschool educators in supporting their students' sleep needs. Since 2001, it has given away more than 7.5 million pairs of pajamas. Find out more at pajamaprogram.org.



What makes your grandparents special?

Everett—who is 9 years old and from Tennessee—said his grandparents are always looking after him and caring for him. They are kind and gentle, and a favorite memory is going to Disney World with them. To celebrate your grandparent or any special older person, go to kidstheweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form (like the one at right). Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the responses in future issues.

Why my grandparents are important to me

Grandparents' Day is coming up on September 18, 2023. This is a day when people of different generations, like grandparents and their grandchildren, are encouraged to connect. We invite you to use this form to write down your thoughts about one or more of your grandparents—or any special older people in your life with them. They may enjoy knowing what you have to say. We would also love to read what you write and see your artwork. To share your thoughts and drawing with us, ask an adult to email your form to hello@theweekjunior.com. Extra forms can be found at theweekjunior.com/activities.

First name Everett Age 9 State Tennessee

In honor of Grandparents' Day, explain why your grandparents are important to you.
My grandparents are important to me because they are always taking care of me and I love them. They are gentle and let me take my time.

If you could describe your grandparents in three words, which words would you choose?
I would describe them as kind, gentle, and caring.

What is your favorite memory of being with your grandparents?
My favorite memory of being with my grandparents is going to Disney World with them.

Draw a picture of you with your grandparents.

By submitting this form, you give The Week Junior consent to print it in the magazine and online. Get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, and please include a sentence or two describing anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"Here is a picture of me reading *The Week Junior* while bouncing on the trampoline." **Ben, 12, Maine**

"I made overnight oats for my family using a recipe I found in *The Week Junior*. Everyone loved it!"

Nupur, 8, Washington



"We brought the hiking issue of *The Week Junior* to read during our trip to Yosemite National Park!" **Tommy and Ben, 9, Massachusetts**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Hitch**

School: **Oak Trace Elementary**

"Mrs. Hitch is the best principal I could ever ask for. I have known her since I was in kindergarten and she hasn't changed a bit. She comes to class and reads us books and is always the nicest, even when we are having bad days. I am in fourth grade, so I will miss her when I go to fifth grade in a new school."

Finley, 9, Indiana

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

L E A T H W I L L F E L T T R O I L S L E C K D E N I M
 W O P O L Y E S T E R P L A V I D I D T H I S C A S H M E R E H X E N S H E U A T W E E D K D V E L O U R
 V E L O U R

Take five
melon
bagel
juice
toast
syrup

All the same
1. Barbie
2. handlebars
3. Hubbard
4. barefoot
5. embarrass

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 |



Quiz answers (from page 30): 1 b) Bear 747 2 Writers Guild of America 3 c) Nine 4 False. They arrived in 2000. 5 a) Whale 6 3.13 7 b) Taylor Heise 8 Banyan tree 9 False. The sculpture is made of sugar. 10 The Very Large Telescope 11 b) Arkansas 12 True 13 b) Seattle SuperSonics 14 True 15 b) Scooter

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which big chunky bear was the winner of Fat Bear Week 2022?

a) 480 Otis b) Bear 747 c) Bear 901

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 What labor union was on strike for 146 days before reaching an agreement with Hollywood studios and streaming services?

3 How many core Power Rangers will there be in the new series *Power Rangers: Cosmic Fury*?

a) Five b) Seven c) Nine

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? The giant pandas Mei Xiang and Tian Tian arrived at the Smithsonian National Zoo in 1972.

True ☐ False ☐

5 A teenager in Alabama discovered a fossil of which prehistoric creature?

a) Whale b) Crocodile c) Shark

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 Max Park of California set a world record in 2023 by solving a Rubik's Cube in how many seconds?

7 Who was the first pick in the Professional Women's Hockey League draft?

a) Hilary Knight b) Taylor Heise

c) Marie-Philip Poulin

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What kind of tree sprouted new leaves and brought hope to residents after the wildfires in Hawaii?



9 True or false? A UK artist created a sculpture of London's Tower Bridge using 55 pounds of salt.

True ☐ False ☐

10 What was the name of the first Earth-based telescope to see a dark spot on Neptune's surface?

11 In which US state is artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's *Listening Forest* being exhibited?

a) Alabama b) Arkansas c) Alaska

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? Cats don't have taste buds that allow them to recognize sweet flavors.

True ☐ False ☐

13 Damien Wilkins began his professional basketball career with which team?

a) Detroit Pistons b) Seattle SuperSonics

c) Indiana Pacers

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? In the video game *Harvest Moon: The Winds of Anthos*, Anthos was split into different villages by a volcanic eruption.

True ☐ False ☐

15 A cockatoo named Chico has set a world record for the fastest five meters by a parrot riding which type of vehicle?

a) Bicycle

b) Scooter

c) Skateboard

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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Reading sparks a lifetime love of learning, gets kids on track for success, and helps them identify and follow their passions. There are stories in *The Week Junior* that speak to every child and inspire them to keep reading.

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